

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01168 121456Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /094 W  
-----032535 121619Z /43

R 121433Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7448  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 1168

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDEV, RH  
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SITHOLE'S SPEECH IN CAPE TOWN

1. IN A SPEECH AT THE CAPE TOWN PRESS CLUB ON JUNE 10, SITHOLE SAID THAT MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF BLACKS IN RHODESIA SUPPORTED THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS NOT "IRREVERSIBLE." SITHOLE CITED SEVERAL REASONS FOR HIS CONFIDENCE INCLUDING: THE SINCERITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS; THE COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE ON THE BASIS ONE MAN ONE VOTE; SMITH'S COMMITMENT TO INDEPENDENCE BY DECEMBER 31; THE COMMITMENT OF THE INTERNALLY BASED NATIONALIST LEADERS TO HONORING THE AGREEMENT "COME WHAT MAY"; AND THE FACT THAT BLACK AND WHITE RHODESIANS WERE  
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BOTH "SICK AND TIRED" OF THE WAR.

2. SITHOLE SAID THAT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT HAD SET UP CERTAIN MACHINERY TO TRY TO GAIN THE TRUST OF THE GUERRILLAS AND SIGNS WERE THAT THIS WAS SUCCESSFUL. SITHOLE SAID THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS IRRELEVANT AS IT HAD NO BASIS IN REALITY OTHER THAN

AS A CONCEPT HELD BY FRONT LINE STATES AND BY THE US. THE PF, HE ASSERTED, HAD NO MILITARY ARM OF ANY NOTE AND ITS POLITICAL POWER BASE WITHIN RHODESIA WAS MINIMAL. SITHOLE CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS GROWING SUPPORT FOR THE VIEW THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD HAVE CONTACT WITH INDEPENDENT AFRICA, BUT SOUTH AFRICANS HAD TO BE AWARE THAT RHODESIAN BLACKS WOULD NOT ACCEPT THEIR RACIAL AND POLITICAL VIEWS.

3. SITHOLE SAID THAT HE DID NOT SEE THE POINT OF THE ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE AND THAT THE SALISBURY GROUP WAS NOT INTERESTED. HE IMPLIED, HOWEVER, THAT IF SMITH RENEGED ON HIS STATED INTENTION TO STEP DOWN AND IF ELECTIONS WERE NOT HELD AS SCHEDULED, THEN THE ISSUE COULD BE RECONSIDERED.

4. SITHOLE'S VISIT WAS THE FIRST TO SOUTH AFRICA BY ONE OF THE BLACK MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE INTERIM REGIME. ACCORDING TO DFA, SITHOLE DID NOT CALL ON SAG LEADERS. EDMONDSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPEECHES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CAPET01168  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RHODESIA: SITHOLE'S SPEECH IN CAPE TOWN  
**TAGS:** PDEV, PINT, RH, (SITHOLE, NDABANINGI)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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